THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) There are no confirmed reports to substantiate the activities of 'Al Quaida' in India. However, arrest of certain persons in connection with a conspiracy to bomb US Embassy in New Delhi revealed the possible links of an associate of Osama Bin Laden with certain persons alleged to be involved in the conspiracy.

(b) Government have adopted a well coordinated and multi-pronged approach for tackling the activities of militants/terrorists, which includes strengthening border management, gearing up the intelligence machinery, neutralizing plans of militants/terrorists by coordinated action, modernization and upgradation of police forces with advanced sophisticated weapons and communication systems etc. Central Government has also been sensitizing the State Governments about the threat perception and activities of various militants/terrorist outfits. Assistance by way of deployment of Central Para-Military Forces is also provided as and when required. Steps have also been taken to secure international cooperation for curbing the activities of militant/terrorist organizations. Financial assistance, including reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure is provided by the Central Government to the affected States for curbing activities of terrorists4nilitants.

Amendment to the Criminal Procedure Code

1103. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the light of experience in recent BMW and Jessica Lai Murder cases where key witness have turned hostile during trial thus rendering prosecution cases weak and ineffective and derailing process of justice, Government propose to amend the Criminal Procedure Code;

(b) if so, the details of amendments proposed to be made;

(c) whether Government have considered pros and cons of proposed amendments and consulted Law Commission, State

Governments, Bar Council of India and other legal luminaries in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) when the proposed amendments are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) (a) to (e) The Law Commission of India in their 154th Report on the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 has recommended, *inter alia,* insertion of a new sub-section, 1(A), in section 164 to read as follows:

> "Every Investigating Officer shall send to the nearest Magistrate all material witnesses during the course of investigation and the Magistrate on oath record their statements, if such Magistrate is empowered to take cognizance of the case on police report, he shall keep such statements alongwith the FIR received by him and await the further police report under section 173. If he is not empowered to take such cognizance, he shall send the statements thus recorded on oath to the Magistrate empowered to take cognizance of the case."

It is not feasible to indicate a specific time-frame for a decision on the above as the Government has to take a view on the recommendations of the Law Commission in the 154th Report, in entirety, after consulting State Governments and other concerned organisations.

Complaints regarding police excesses in Delhi

1104. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a large number of complaints regarding police excess in Delhi during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints; and

(c) the details of steps taken to reduce the police excess?